



September 2006

WELCOME!

You're reading the first edition of Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary's (TBNMS) newsletter, THE CROW'S NEST. Our goal is to inform interested parties of the wide scope of activities undertaken by the Sanctuary and its NOAA and State of Michigan staff members in the Alpena area and beyond. While this newsletter will be primarily retrospective - to share with you the results of our efforts - we will also highlight important coming activities. This newsletter is here for you. If you'd like to share comments, suggestions or questions, please contact State Archaeologist John Halsey at (517) 373-6358 or johnh@michigan.gov.

Great Lakes Heritage Maritime Trail is Moving Forward

Alpena's riverfront is about to become more pedestrian and a great deal more **tourism-friendly**, as the Great Lake Maritime Heritage Trail moves closer to reality.

Partners including the Michigan Department of Transportation, the City of Alpena, Alpena Marc, National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center and Alpena Rotary Club are constructing a trail along the Thunder Bay River from the **Second Avenue Bridge to Water Tower Park** and providing access to historic dock sites.

The project includes a non-motorized pathway, a bridge over the Thunder Bay River to the Rotary's Island Mill, dock restoration, lighting, landscaping, bike racks and interpretive signs.

Construction of shore-based infrastructure for dockage at the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center (GLMHC) will coincide with two other dock projects within the new Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Trail development. Construction is scheduled for completion by fall 2007.

Dive into the Thunder Bay Sanctuary Research Collection

In 2004 the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary & Underwater Preserve and the Alpena County George N. Fletcher Public Library agreed to jointly manage the Thunder Bay Sanctuary Research Collection, a notable collection of resources related to Great Lakes history, created over a period of more than 40 years by historian C. Patrick Labadie, who began researching **19th-century Great Lakes watercraft** while at the University of Detroit in 1958.

When he retired in 2000 from a career in various Great Lakes maritime museums, Labadie had one of the largest private collections of Great Lakes history in existence. Labadie and his wife, June, contributed the collection to the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary in 2003.

The focus of Mr. Labadie's study was 19th-century Great Lakes wooden shipbuilding technology, but the Research Collection includes information about such diverse subjects as **Great Lakes ports and waterways, docks, cargoes, ships, shipbuilders, owners and fleets,**

machinery and rigging, notable maritime personalities and shipwrecks. A special feature of the collection is a card index listing most of the ships of the Great Lakes before the turn of the century, a **roster of some 15,000 vessels**, complete with descriptive data and highlights of the ships' careers and their ultimate losses.

Thanks to a **\$235,000 State of Michigan digitization grant** administered by the Library of Michigan, the collection is becoming even more accessible. Ongoing digitization efforts will provide a comprehensive collection index and make available large portions of the collection online. A team of almost a dozen people, including both hired and volunteer personnel, is at work on processing, data summary, image scanning and data-entry tasks.

A \$4,000 grant from the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Preserve America mini-grant program is being used to purchase specialized hard drives to store and back up information during the digitization of the Thunder Bay Sanctuary Research Collection, and to purchase an additional work station and scanner.

For additional information on the Thunder Bay Sanctuary Research Collection, please visit: http://www.alpenalibrary.org/AlpenaLibrary/TBRC_Main.html.



Annual Maritime Festival Welcomes Waves of Visitors!

An estimated 6,000 to 8,000 visitors attended the sanctuary's annual **Maritime Festival** held on the 4th of July.

For the first time this popular event was held at the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center, drawing the largest crowd in the festival's history!



The Festival featured maritime-themed music and storytelling, as well as a variety of nautical-inspired workshops.

Activities for kids included toy boat building, face painting, rope making, sail demonstrations, and many other maritime/Great Lakes-related games and activities.

Sanctuary staff utilized the dive tank for scuba and remotely operated vehicles (ROV) demonstrations, allowing visitors to take the controls and see what it's like to drive underwater! Guests also had ample opportunity to interact with divers in the pool and try on scuba gear.

All day long, visitors waited patiently in line for their chance to explore

the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center, with some commenting they “had no idea there was something like this” in Alpena and expressing excitement over the anticipated completion of the center's main exhibits.

Visitors of all ages were especially impressed with **Science On a Sphere®**, a large visualization system (developed by NOAA's Forecast Systems Laboratory) that uses computers and video projectors to display animated data onto the outside of a sphere.

The sphere is an animated globe that can show **dynamic images** of the atmosphere, oceans and land of our planet (or others).

SOS is an amazing education and outreach tool that effectively describes the environmental processes that impact Earth. Wilfred von Dauster from the Forecast Systems Laboratory provided programming on the SOS throughout the day of the festival.



Fieldwork on the Water (and Next to It!)

TBNMS staff and partners put in a great deal of time and energy on a variety of exciting projects over the summer. Highlights include:

June 12-16: TBNMS and Alpena Community College conducted an archaeological field school on **Mill Island**, Thunder Bay River, Alpena.



June 19-30: TBNMS and students in a University of Michigan Museum of Anthropology field school documented the remains of the wooden

steamer Joseph S. Fay, which wrecked onshore at Forty Mile Point, Presque Isle County, on Oct. 19, 1905.



July 29 – Aug. 6: The U.S. Naval Sea Cadets, Great Lakes Division, hosted an Advanced Diving Certification class in Thunder Bay.

Aug. 1-12: The University of Rhode Island and TBNMS sponsored a field school focusing on remote sensing at Thunder Bay's North Point.

Aug. 16-17: Researchers from NOAA's Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory and Grand Valley State University explored several sinkholes off Middle Island.

Educational Opportunity

Mark Holley and Ken Vrana of the Center for Maritime and Underwater Resource Management taught a class in underwater archaeology at Alpena Community College the week of July 24. The class will be offered at other locations around the state.

TBNMS on TV

Check local listings for “**America's Underwater Treasures**” on PBS **Sept. 27** at 8 p.m.!

Making Connections: Community Education and Outreach

TBNMS staff members are always seeking new ways to showcase the sanctuary and maritime heritage center as a resource for the community it serves. Recent education and outreach efforts include:

- Participating in a meeting with the MERIT Network regarding the use of Internet 2 for various educational purposes in NE Michigan. Staff gave a short presentation on **telepresence** and how it will be utilized in the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center in the coming years.
- Meeting with education and maritime heritage representatives from the sanctuary advisory council to discuss future projects - including **distance learning and arts and humanities programs** - for the education executive council.
- Working with Alpena Community College's Educational Talent Search program for area secondary school students, to hold a week-long day camp for 7th- to 9th-grade students interested in learning about **nautical archaeology and careers in NOAA**.
- Giving a tour of the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center to students from an Alpena Community College English class who had been studying **maritime history and literature**
- Coordinating two other summer educational events at the center: the Alpena County Library (ACL) Summer Reading Program, "**Explore New Worlds - READ! Set sail on an underwater adventure!**" targeting upwards of 1,000 elementary school students; and **Northwood University Express Course**, where students enjoyed a three-day, four-credit history course on maritime history and nautical archaeology, focusing on the Great Lakes and the shipwrecks of Thunder Bay.
- Hosting a **volunteer training** session in May to prepare volunteers to assist with educational activities and various other Sanctuary events.
- Conducting an interactive station at **Ocqueoc River Watershed Days**, where roughly 70 5th-graders came through to learn about Thunder Bay shipwrecks and nautical archaeology.
- Holding a workshop for 35 area **Boy Scouts** working on their **archaeology badges**, the first of a three-part series by TBNMS to help lead the scouts through the steps to acquire this badge.
- Meeting with Heather Schneider of the **Shedd Aquarium**, in town to observe the ROV competition. Discussions including joint opportunities for distance learning and ROV-based programs at both institutions.

Telepresence Programming Puts Viewers in the Swim

The theater in the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center can now receive telepresence programming. Sanctuary staff is working with NOAA headquarters and Mystic Aquarium to develop a plan for TBNMS telepresence. TBNMS began receiving programming this summer, including the Monitor expedition, Monterey “Live Dive” and Ballard's Greece expedition. In late June, sanctuary staff hosted a meeting to discuss long- and short-term goals for the telepresence program.

Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary Management Plan Review – Opportunity for Public Input

The Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary was designated by the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in October 2000. It is jointly managed by NOAA and the State of Michigan to protect and interpret a nationally significant collection of shipwrecks and other maritime heritage resources. The Sanctuary has begun its **management plan review**.

Using a community-based process that will provide numerous opportunities for public input, the review will evaluate and update current sanctuary management strategies and programs. The purpose of the review is to ensure that the Sanctuary will better protect, conserve and enhance its maritime heritage resources for current and future generations.

The management plan review will begin with a series of **public scoping meetings in late September**. These meetings will be used to identify the issues to be addressed in the updated management plan. The Sanctuary will also welcome written comments via mail, fax, email and a Sanctuary Web site comment form. A draft management plan will later be developed and additional public comments will be solicited.

Scoping meetings are public meetings used to gather input on resource management issues from resource users, interest groups, government agencies, and other members of the public. The input will be used to define the range of issues to be addressed during the management plan review.

A State of the Sanctuary (SOS) Report will be used as a basis for revising the original management plan. This document will discuss management activities of the Sanctuary and its accomplishments since its designation in 2000. The SOS will be available in mid-September, prior to the scoping meetings. Please contact the Sanctuary to request a copy or download a copy at <http://www.thunderbay.noaa.gov>.

A schedule of scoping meetings follows on the next page:

Thunder Bay Scoping Meeting Schedule

Sept. 18 – Public comment period begins

Sept. 24, 11 a.m. – Association for Great Lakes Maritime History Meeting (Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center, 500 W. Fletcher Street, Alpena)

Sept. 25, 6:30 p.m. – Presque Isle Scoping Meeting (Presque Isle District Library, 181 E. Erie Street, Rogers City)

Sept. 26, 6:30 p.m. – Alpena Scoping Meeting (Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center, 500 W. Fletcher Street, Alpena)

Sept. 28, 6:30 p.m. – Alcona Scoping Meeting (Harrisville Courthouse, 106 N. 5th Street, Harrisville)

Sept. 29, 1 p.m. – Lansing Scoping Meeting (Michigan Historical Center, Lake Ontario Room, 702 W. Kalamazoo Street, Lansing)

Oct. 13 – Deadline for public comments.

Contact the Sanctuary

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For the latest on Thunder Bay and underwater archaeology in Michigan, visit

www.michigan.gov/thunderbay.

The Michigan Historical Center, the lead state agency working with Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary, is part of the Department of History, Arts and Libraries.

www.michigan.gov/hal.

